

"TWO LITTLE WORDS"

Monday, March 19, 2018, 29th Day of Lent

John 11:33, 35 "When Jesus saw her (Mary) weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping also, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved...Jesus began to weep." NRSV

When I was a little girl attending elementary school in rural Cabell County, each week we had the assignment to memorize and recite a Bible verse. (It was a different time - the late 1950's / early 1960's - and the assignment was entirely acceptable in our community.) Each of my classmates and I ended up choosing John 11:35 as one of our required recitations. In the King James Version it was two little words: Jesus wept. How simple! We were children, and to us the most significant thing about this verse was what was recorded in our teacher's grade book: An "A" for two little words!

For my classmates and me, in that simpler time, the two words seemed to be simple. But now I see just how profound they really are. They reveal so much about the nature of God's love for us. Jesus is so moved by the pain Mary and her friends are feeling, their grief and despair because of Lazarus' death that he weeps with them. He empathizes with them. Their pain is his pain, too. Amazing! Not only does God know when our hearts are broken, but His heart is broken for us. Amazing! God loves us that much!

In this Lenten season, as we look deeply into ourselves and reflect upon God and our relationship with Him, let us remember two little words from the story of Lazarus: Jesus wept.

Prayer: Thank you God for loving us so much You weep when we weep. Lord, we praise you for your incomprehensible love for us. In response we will show the love of Christ to others we see today. Amen.

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